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California GARDEN

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Amateur Rose Society
April 1, 1940
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33rd ANNUAL
SPRING
FLOWER SHOW
WILL BE OPEN
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BALBOA PARK

YOU HAVE SOMETHING
SOMEONE ELSE WOULD
LIKE TO SEE . . .
SHOW IT!

MARCH-APRIL
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In Memoriam

K. O. SESSIONS

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Bird Life in San Diego Gardens . . .

By CLINTON G. ABBOTT

Birds are by their very nature intimately associated with plants, yet how few lovers of gardens can name the birds which they see among their shrubs and flowers. Our acquaintance with even the commonest is apt to be very superficial. For example are we really sure that we know the difference between a Mockingbird and a Butcher-bird, between a Jay and a Bluebird, between a Linnet and an English Sparrow? So the Editor of the "California Garden" has suggested that we have an occasional article on birds. After all, it is just as appropriate that we know these garden inhabitants whom we can consider friends, as the multitude of winged and crawling pests which we are perforce required to look upon as enemies.

How many kinds of birds should an intelligent garden owner in San Diego be able to recognize? Let us see if published literature offers any suggestion. Frank Stephens' "Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County" records 320 species. Whew! That is surely discouraging for a novice. The Natural History Museum distributes on its nature walks a mimeographed list of the birds of Balboa Park. With the ocean, mountains and desert cut off, how does this total compare with the county as a whole? It is down to 127, but this is little help in our "garden" problem. Even the 40 kinds which an Eagle Boy Scout is required to identify is more than should be expected of the average busy person who has a garden to look after, in addition to multifarious other duties.

Carroll DeWilton Scott, formerly supervisor of nature study in the city schools, kept an accurate record of the birds he observed on the different school grounds. He decided that the following twelve birds are the commonest in the city in winter: year-round residents — Mockingbird, Linnet (house finch), English Sparrow, Brewer Blackbird, Black Phoebe, and Anna Hummingbird; winter visitors — California Gull, Audubon Warbler, Gambel Sparrow, American Pipit, Hermit Thrush and Western Bluebird. "Summer birds as widely distributed as the above twelve," he writes, "are Arizona Hooded Oriole, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Cliff Swallow."

The birds mentioned by Scott as the commonest at the schools he visited might not be the commonest in your garden. The big lawns at certain schools would attract such a bird as the American Pipit, which is probably an **avis incognita** to most of the readers of the "California Garden."

Certainly I would make some substitutions in his list so far as our own garden is concerned. I have never seen a California Gull there, though I have seen them flying overhead. The reason they go to the schools is to get the scraps from the children's lunches. On the other hand, because our garden is near a shrubby canyon on one side and vacant lots on the other, we are visited, if not by Gulls, by such other birds as Quail, Roadrunners, Mourning Doves and Burrowing Owls, which would never be found in a more built-up section.

Any bird list of our garden would also have to include the diminutive Bush-Tit, of which cheerful little flocks are seen daily, and the Wren-Tit, whose voice—a loud staccato trill emerging from the depths of the bushes — is much more familiar than his person. It would positively have to mention the California Towhee, our friendly "brown bird." As for Killdeer, California Thrasher, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Meadowlark, Green-backed Goldfinch and Song Sparrow—all of these occur regularly in or near many gardens.

Let us now check back and count how many different birds we have mentioned altogether in this article. It is thirty-one. Then suppose we decide that at least such members of this list as visit your place should be considered the minimum bird acquaintance of the well-informed garden lover. Which of them can you readily call by name? If it is only a few, remember that the San Diego Natural History Museum has what it calls its "Identification" cases, in which every bird that has been recorded in the County is displayed. When in doubt about a name, there is no need to worry about puzzling pictures. Here are

the birds themselves, guaranteed not to fly away no matter how close you approach! Come and study them. Should the plumage of a given bird have seasonal or sexual variations, these are shown. Furthermore, the services of the museum staff are at your disposal to help you solve your bird problems. That is one of the things we are here for. The writer, particularly, is always pleased to answer bird questions. There is a card on his door which reads "Please walk in without knocking." This is his way of trying to emphasize that you need have no hesitancy in making yourself known.

But it may be that you cannot come to the Natural History Museum; and, in any event, you will want a better knowledge of the living birds themselves. First of all, a pair of field glasses is practically an essential aid. Opera glasses are better than nothing, but the higher the power, the better will be the close-up record of markings and shapes; and, later, the easier will be the identification, by whatever method is used.

Another way to bring birds nearer to you is to feed them and to provide them with bathing places. The device need not be elaborate, a shelf or table convenient for observation from some window, and not too available for surprise attacks by cats. In southern California, birds will patronize your table, not to ward off starvation, as they may do in some parts of the country, but merely because it is such easy picking. Once they have learned that you have a constantly spread banquet for them, they will come again and again. Frank F. Gander, of our museum staff, who has had great success in attracting wild birds, says that Linnets like seeds that they can hull, such as birdseed and sunflower seed. Gambel Sparrows prefer chick-feed, bread crumbs, and small seeds of any kind. Softer food, such as grapes and suet, appeals to Audubon Warblers. The Butcher-bird (Shrike), he says, will take suet. Jays are almost omnivorous, eating suet, grapes, grain and bread, and usually carrying off the food rather than eating it on the table. Mockingbirds come the year round for grapes or bread, and even bring their babies to the tables as soon as they are able to fly.

Here are a few more of Mr. Gander's suggestions: sunflower seeds for Black-headed Grosbeaks; small grain and seeds for Wren-Tits; opened figs for Bush-Ttits; grain and bread crumbs for Brown Towhees; the same, plus fruit, for California Thrashers; grain, seeds and bread crumbs for Song Sparrows; bread and fruit for Hermit Thrushes. In the summer - time, he adds, watermelon, cantaloupe and grapes will attract Orioles. It will thus be seen that the ordinary bread and fruit from our tables is attractive to many birds, to be supplemented, for widest results, with bird seed, sunflower seed, chick-feed and suet.

One of our citizens, Mr. E. B. Weaver had an Alaska Hermit Thrush visit his small garden for ten years, making nineteen safe trips that he knew of over its long migration route. This suggests the engaging pastime of bird-banding, by which birds are harmlessly trapped on the feeding table, marked with an aluminum leg-band and released. The return records and other romance of such work are fascinating. But bird-banding is a whole story in itself.

Persons newly arrived from the East ask us why they cannot, in their southern California gardens, attract tenants to bird-houses. They have been accustomed to erecting a bird-house and having it almost immediately patronized by Bluebirds, Chickadees, Purple Martins, or House Wrens. The answer to this question is not hard to find. Before man provided artificial boxes, hole-nesting birds used natural cavities in trees. This presupposes trees with branches big enough to have cavities—in other words, trees of large size that can grow only where there is plenty of rain. In southern California's coastal region, where the annual rainfall is only about ten inches, there are normally no big trees. The natural vegetation is the chaparral, and the nesting birds are those that favor an environment of shrubs rather than trees. Hence the birds that can be attracted to a nesting box here are few and far between. Erect your bird-houses in the mountain sections of southern California and you will have plenty of tenants.

If, in the absence of the bird-house hobby, the San Diego garden

Spring Fever

Just after dawn I started out,
'Twas in the early spring,
To do some needed garden work,
Before the breakfast ring.

I took along my trusty trowel,
I didn't have a care,
I'd get a lot of garden work,
Get exercise and air.

And as this trusty trowel worked on,
I said to it, "Why no,
You're not the one to do this work,
I'll get my good old hoe."

Then to the good old hoe I said,
"You cannot make the grade,
I might have known that I would need
My strong and sturdy spade."

'Tho now I had quite weary grown,
The sturdy spade I brought,
And now at last I was quite sure
This was the tool I sought.

But very soon I cried aloud,
As it began to shirk,
"I wonder if my faithful fork
Would like to do this work."

And so I brought my faithful fork,
Then heard a voice quite sweet,
Call, "John, my dear, you've worked so hard,
Do come right in and eat."

I took my fork, trowel, hoe and spade
Back down the garden stair.
'Tis queer how hard a man will work,
For exercise and air.

—K. V. L.

La Jolla, California
January 20, 1940

owner would like to make his contribution to ornithology, let him be a book-keeping "bird watcher." As soon as you can recognize the birds that most commonly visit your place, keep a daily record of those that are seen. Such a list, maintained over a number of years, will provide much needed information as to just when our migrants arrive, when they depart, and other facts hitherto determined largely by guess work. There are far too few such figures available today in the West. A conscientious bird watcher can thus make a definite contribution to science.

Clinton G. Abbott,
Director, Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego.

Lester Roundtree's New Book

Much has been said about Lester Rowntree's recent book on the flowering shrubs of California — and all of it good. There is a reason for this. The book is good, and that is still not enough to say. It is a classic in its field and stands out in the general run of garden books as does the sun when it ushers in a new day. Like this luminary, it heralds a new era in evaluation and appreciation of the natives. It does more. There is presented in continual dosage and pleasing diction the practical information, underground and above, so necessary in the domestication of these choice individuals coming from various parts of the state.

To any gardener, here or only in lesser degree elsewhere in the country, and whether actually interested in these plants or not, this work is of great and absorbing moment. One cannot garden in California without eventually becoming inoculated with the peculiar brand of charm these things have to offer, an appeal that can become deep-seated and all-embracing, exceeded only by their capricious behavior when taken from their natural environment.

All this is most thoroughly

(Continued on page 6)

Gardening in Pots . . . .

By ALICE M. CLARK

There is a fascination about this business of growing things in pots which compensates for the extra labor and expense involved. It is admirably suited to a woman who wishes to indulge her privilege of mental flexibility, because she can shift her whole scheme to suit any mood very quickly, provided always, she has a nice variety of plants in pots, to work with.

I was forced to choose this form of gardening because the roots of three Chinese elms, interlacing through the top-soil of my small back yard, made cultivation more or less impossible. Being deciduous, the leaves of these trees covered the young seedlings planted under them in the fall, faster than they could be raked off. Now I bring along my plants in pots and set them in the soil quite happily, "after the deluge."

When the trees are bare and the plot is sunny and so lends itself to a few annuals which can be put directly in the ground as good-sized seedlings. The beds have been dug down two feet, with drainage in the bottom, and fertilized in the fall so the soil is loose and rich. When the spring flowers have bloomed, the tree roots are heavy again and there is a shady bower overhead so it is time for the tuberous begonias to be set out, their pots sunk in the ground. Leave them raised a few inches above the surface so the surrounding soil will not wash in and change their acid content. Also be sure to have space enough at the top of the pot to hold sufficient water to soak them once a day.

On the north side of my house in winter, thrifty plants of cinerarias thrive in their earthen containers and make it possible to shift them around both for size and color. I re-pot them only once, starting with the five-inch size. Meanwhile they may be interspaced with schizanthus and columbine, with an edging of Primula malacoides.

As soon as the cinerarias have finished blooming the plot becomes sunny and the space is filled with potted dwarf hybrid dahlias. Nierembergia hippomanica with its mass of blue bells, makes a lovely border for the gay dahlias. The dahlias too, can be moved about to best advantage and later can be stored away to ripen in their containers while the bed is made ready for another change. I plan to try chrysanthemums there this fall.

In a corner that is always shady I have even potted a pool in a tub! It seemed to be a logical place for it, as the water always settled there. Of course it is not the best home for a lily, which likes the sun, but other aquatics survive. Around the edge are several holes among rocks into which I shift the loveliest specimens of the season. Right now, four azaleas in full bloom, and a cyclamen reflect in the water with maidenhair fern, clivias and agapanthus behind.

In the summer hanging baskets of colorful Lloydii begonias will droop over the pool from above, replacing the fuschias there now. The pond also makes a place to float the choice begonias that may fall off too soon.

Besides the advantages of flexibility in pot gardening, and the solution of the tree-root problem, there are others. Each flower can have a soil exactly suited to its special requirements. The fertilizer may be placed at the bottom or top, wherever best utilized, with the assurance that it will feed only that one plant. Drainage is certain with the use of sand or broken tile in the bottom.

If one plant is sickly or diseased, it may be replaced by another without leaving a vacancy. Plants may be placed in different exposures to find the situation best suited to them. They can be put on a table and sprayed very easily, when necessary. Keeping up with the potted growth is a very strenuous job. One never seems to have enough

(Continued on page 9)

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Sat. and Sun. April 27th - 28th, Balboa Park

SECTION A—AMATEURS
ROSES

* 1. Collection of Roses, 20 varieties, two blooms each. (Association cup).
* 2. Collection of Roses, 12 varieties, two blooms each.
* 3. Collection of Roses, 6 varieties, two blooms each.
NOTE: No person may exhibit in more than one of Class 1, 2, 3.
4. Six White Roses, one variety.
5. Six Red Roses, one variety.
6. Six Yellow Roses, on variety.
7. Six Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
8. Six Pink Roses, one variety.
9. Six Pink Shaded Roses, one gariety.
10. Six Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
11. Six Multicolored Roses.
12. Three White Roses, one variety.
13. Three Red Roses, one variety.
14. Three Yellow Roses, one variety.
15. Three Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
16. Three Pink Roses, one variety.
17. Three Pink Shaded Roses,
18. Three Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
19. Three Multicolored Roses.
20. Display of Single Roses.
21. Display of Polyantha or Baby Roses.
* 22. Display of mixed varieties of Roses.
23. Display of Climbing Roses.
* 24. Arranged vase or bowl of Roses. One variety.
* 25. Arranged Basket of Roses. One variety.
* 26. Arranged vase or bowl of Roses. More than one variety.
* 27. Arranged Basket of Roses, more than one variety.

* **BEST ROSE IN SHOW**

SECTION B—AMATEURS
BEARDED IRIS

28. Arranged basket of Bearded Iris.
29. Arranged bowl of Bearded Iris.
30. Arranged vase of Bearded Iris.
31. Arranged low dish of Bearded Iris.

BULBOUS IRIS
(Dutch, Spanish or English)

32. Arranged basket of Bulbous Iris.
33. Arranged bowl of Bulbous Iris.
34. Arranged vase of Bulbous Iris.
35. Arranged low dish of Bulbous Iris.
36. Arranged bowl of Japanese Iris.

BEARDLESS IRIS

37. Arranged basket of Beardless Iris.
38. Arranged bowl of Beardless Iris.
39. Arranged vase of Beardless Iris.
40. Arranged low dish of Beardless Iris.
* **Sweepstake Trophy 28-40 inclusive.**

COLLECTIONS

41. Collection of five distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
42. Collection of ten distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
43. Collection of twenty distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
44. Collection of five distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
45. Collection of ten distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
46. Collection of twenty distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
47. Collection of five varieties of Bulbous Iris.
48. Collection of ten varieties of Bulbous Iris.
* **Sweepstake Trophy 41-48 inclusive.**

SECTION C—AMATEURS
SWEET PEAS

* 49. Collection of Sweet Peas, 10 stems each vase.
50. Vase Sweet Peas, white.
51. Vase Sweet Peas, cream and yellow shades.
52. Vase Sweet Peas, red and red shades.
53. Vase Sweet Peas, pink and pink shades.
54. Vase Sweet Peas, lavender and blue shades.
55. Vase Sweet Peas, purple and maroon shades.
56. Vase Sweet Peas, salmon and orange shades.
57. Vase Sweet Peas, bi-color.
Classes 50-57 inclusive should carry ten to fifteen stems each vase.
58. Arranged bowl of Sweet Peas.
59. Arranged basket Sweet Peas.
* **SWEET PEA SWEEPSTAKES, San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.**
60. Display of Sweet Peas consisting of not less than five named varieties, artistic arrangement and general effect to be considered in making award. Greenery permitted. Open to all.

SECTION D
Amateurs
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

61. Arrangement of Flowers in vase or bowl.
62. All White arrangement. (White container).
63. Arrangement in metal container.
64. Arrangement in the oriental manner.
65. Arrangement of Bulbous flowers in a low container.
66. Arrangement of Succulents.
67. Spring Bouquet, an assort-

ment of spring flowers.
68. Arrangement of fruit blossoms.
69. Arrangement of green Material in white container.
70. Arrangement in sea shell.
71. Arrangement in the Victorian manner.
72. French Bouquets, container required.
73. Arrangement of fruit.

* **Sweepstakes in Classes 61-73 inclusive. First and second Prizes.**

* 74. Still Life Pictures in Shadow Boxes.

SECTION E
Amateurs
MISCELLANEOUS

* 75. Decorated Banquet Table.
* 76. Decorated Lunch Table.
77. Individual Specimen of Decorative Plant.
78. Cut Specimen Flowering Vine.
79. Cut Specimen Flowering Shrub or Tree.
80. Bulb Flowers, six or more varieties.
81. Display of Gladioli, six stems.
82. Display of Geranium Blooms, six or more.
83. Display of Potted Geraniums.
84. Display of Pansies.
85. Display of Violas.
86. Display of Delphinium.
87. Display of Petunias.
88. Display of Stocks, eight or more stems.
89. Display of Snapdragons, eight or more stems.
90. Display of Calendulas, twelve or more stems.
91. Display of Larkspur, twelve or more stems.
92. Display of Fuchsias, not less than twelve inch stems.
93. Display of Gerberas, one color or mixed, not less than eighteen blooms.
94. Display of Nasturtiums, not less than eighteen blooms.
95. Display of Marguerites, not less than eighteen blooms.
96. Display of Scabiosa, twelve blooms, one color or mixed.
97. Display of Carnations, twelve blooms, one color or mixed.
98. Display of Schizanthus.
99. Display of Fruit Blossoms.
100. Flowers not otherwise classified.

* **Sweepstake Classes 77-100 inclusive.**

*101. Community or Club Display. **San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

SECTION F
Open to All Competition

*102. Display from Civic or National Organization.
*103. Display of Native Shrubs and Flowers.
104. Rose Seedling.
105. Display of Epiphyllums in bloom. (Phylo Cactus).
*106. Display of Cacti.
*107. Display of Succulents.
108. Dish or Tray Garden.

SECTION G
PROFESSIONALS

109. Display of Sweet Peas.
110. Display of Cut Roses.
*111. Displayed Collection of Rose Bushes in Bloom. **San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**
*112. Display of Cut Flowers other than Roses or Sweet Peas.
*113. Displayed Collection of Shrubs and Plants.
114. Display of Bulb Flowers.
*115. Collection of Begonias, Ferns, and other Lath-house Plants.
*116. Rock Garden.
117. Garden Pottery.

SECTION H
FLORIST ENTRIES

*118. Best arranged basket, bowl or vase of Cut Flowers.
*119. Dining or Banquet Table.
120. Best Corsage.

* **OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW, San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

* Classes in which Trophies are offered. Ribbons for first and second in all classes.

FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMEN

Roses — Mrs. James C. Byers, J-7484; Mrs. R. G. Sharp, J-3117; Miss Zadie Eda Miller, J-9418.
Sweet Peas—Mrs. E. B. Culnan, B-4743; Mrs. S. H. Carse, B-3892.
Iris — Mrs. Barry, B-5803; Mrs. Wendall Brant, J-8679.
Arrangements in Baskets, Bowls and Vases — Pieter Smoor, M-4875; Miss Schwieder, J-3520; Mrs. John Nuttall, J-2644.
Annuals and Perennials — Mrs. Grace Trevey, W-2775; Miss Lela Marks, Miss Alma Marks, R-2172.
Cacti and Succulents—Mrs. Grace Trevey, W-2775; Miss Lela Marks, Miss Alma Marks, R-2172.
Still Life Pictures—Miss Lela Titus, R-7520.
Decorated Tables — Mrs. William Cowling, J-0255.
Clerking—Mrs. Elsie Case.
Secretary — Mrs. M. E. Ward, W-5022.
Gate Receipts— Frederick G. Jackson.
General Chairman — Mrs. M. A. Greer, W-2267.

SHOW RULES

1. ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE IN PLACE AND PROPERLY ENTERED BY 11 A.M. OF FIRST DAY OF THE SHOW SO THAT JUDGING MAY BE COMPLETED AND AWARDS MADE BEFORE OPENING. NO EXHIBITOR WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT WHILE JUDGING IS GOING ON.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the Clerks by 10:30 A.M. of the first day of Show, Clerks will be on duty at 7:30 A.M. and entires will be received at any time between these hours.
3. All exhibits must be labeled with the correct names of the plants on white cards 2x3 inches, which will be furnished without charge. Names of exhibitors in competitive classes positively must not appear on exhibits until after awards have been made. (Entries in Class 102 excepted from this rule).
4. Exhibits are, from the commencement of the Show, under the jurisdiction of the Show Officials and no exhibit shall be removed before the close of the Show without the authority of the official in charge.
5. Entries will not be considered by the judges unless meritorious.
6. Exhibits can be entered in one class only.

(Continued on Page 6)

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

CYPRESS BORERS

Question: I have a large cypress tree in the back yard of which I think a great deal. Lately I have noticed so many small dead twigs that seem to be broken off and are hanging down. Can you tell me what is wrong and if anything can be done for the tree? I should hate to lose it.—Mrs. B. R.

Answer: During the summer and fall small brown beetles, known as cypress borers, bore into the axils of some of the small twigs of Monterey cypress trees. Usually the twigs so injured do not die at once, but remain green and in place even though weakened. During the winter when we have occasional heavy winds, as during the last month, the weakened twigs either drop off entirely or hang down and turn brown. Beetle injury for almost an entire year thus becomes immediately apparent and affected trees may present an alarming appearance for a short time. As a matter of fact, the dead twigs soon drop and no harm results. The effect on the tree is simply that of mild pruning. Control of the beetle is probably possible but is never attempted for the reason that no particular damage results from its work.

SHOW RULES

(Continued from Page 5)

7. The committee on awards is authorized to give suitable award for any meritorious exhibit not included in the Classes named.
8. Vases are loaned without charge for cut flowers in the competative classes.
9. All pot plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor at least three months; all other flowers and plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where used for arrangement.
10. Flowers in Arrangements must be arranged by exhibitor.
11. In classes where a given number of blooms is specified any excess or deficiency of count shall constitute cause for disqualification.
12. A Display is an arrangement for quality and artistic effect.
13. A collection is a variety of meritorious kinds brought together.
14. All vases, bowls, etc. belonging to exhibitors must be called for Monday morning not later than eleven o'clock.
15. Flower arrangements to be judged according to the following points:

Distinction	20 points
Relation to container	20 points
Color Harmony	20 points
Proportion & balance	20 points
Condition of Material	20 points
	100

16. An Amateur is one who does not engage in horticulture or gardening for profit and who is not directly or indirectly connected with one who engages in horticulture or gardening for profit.
17. No professional or amateur directly connected with a professional shall enter an amateur class.
18. The Floral Association invites exhibits, however small, if meritorious. Exhibits of single specimens of flowers or plants will be duly considered. Special reservations of space may be made by telephone with Mrs. M. A. Greer, Hill. 1550-J. Where Exhibits are to be of any considerable size it is advisable to make reservations in advance.

NO FEE IS CHARGED FOR MAKING ENTRIES IN THIS SHOW.

* Indicates cup or other trophy in class so indicated.

FIESTA

"La Primavera" the Santa Barbara spring flower festival, to be held April 5, 6, 7 is going to be one of the outstanding events of the community.

The show is going to be educational as well as competitive. Lectures, demonstrations, slides and movies will be used in connection with the flower show. Merchants in the community are going to decorate their windows in spring fashion.

LESTER ROWNTREE'S BOOK

(Continued from page 3)

brought out in some 300 pages of such pleasing reading that one regrets putting the book down. After going through for pleasure, one returns for study. In fact, this second urge appears from time to time during the first reading, resisted only with the help of intense interest developed along the way. One thing it lacks—a plot. Stanford University Press, 1939, $3.00.

—R. S. H.

JANUARY MEETING

A goodly number of association members and friends were literally under the spell of a quiet-spoken man and his story the evening of January 23. Mr. Chas. F. Hobson of the Natural History Museum made a flying trip into Lower California with his friend Lawrence Huey and came back with much of the romance of hidden and forgotten places there, the people and their condition and some unusual plant portraits—word and photographic.

They did not find the long-lost succulent they were searching for, but brought the story, vividly and simply told of fog on the desert of high places and their plants and impossible roads; and low places, valleys where a kindly and simple folk lived—happily lost in the straining of these modern, war-streaked times.

Mr. Hobson told us of a giant cactus which was actually and mathematically measured at 63 feet in height and showed a picture in the way of a fisherman extraordinaire, to prove his claim. Also were photographs of the ele-

phant tree of these regions. This tree, **Pachycormus discolor,** was described recently in Desert Plant Life as a short-trunked tree to 10 feet high or more, the picturesque, corpulent stems low or along the ground, gnarled and twisted and terminated by tufted, dry and brittle branches and twigs. Mr. Hobson's pictures showed all this.

Mrs. Neff Bakkers brought blooming succulents which she described in her inimitable manner.

—R. S. H.

MEDALS AWARDED

Marie L. Kelly announces the list of the gold medals awarded by the permanent jury at the Hall of Flowers, California Commission for the Golden Gate International Exposition. The number awarded was very small in view of the fact that there were 2176 exhibitors—282 of them commercial. One medal was awarded to amateurs and one to a botanical garden. The awards, the awards of merit, as well as medals, were based on quality of material, sustained effort and display value of the exhibits.

The problem of awards of merit or medals in a continuous flower show is a new and difficult one. In this case, a very high standard was set which automatically reduced the number of awards.

Ferry Morse Seed Company—Larkspur.

Edgar L. Kline—Lilies in variety.

Vetterle and Reinelt—Tuberous begonias.

Northwest Bulb Growers—Narcissus in variety.

Cactus and other Succulent League—Cacti and other succulents.

Mr. and Mrs. Anson S. Blake—Rare and varied garden material.

E. P. Zimmerman—Clivia hybrids.

Mrs. Fred Stone—Eremurus robustus.

J. A. Carbone—Orchids.

Victor Reiter, Jr.—Fuchsias.

E. J. Berneche—Peonies.

University of California Botanical Garden—Camellia reticulata

It will be noted that our own E. P. Zimmerman's Clivia hybrids received recognition.

Gleanings from the Magazines . . .

By IDA LOUISE BRYANT

HOLLAND'S, "the magazine of the south," for March has an article that will strike reader interest, called: Small Plants for Small Gardens. With materials of a dwarf nature, even crowding them in as most owners of new gardens insist on doing, there isn't the necessity for taking out and moving around into a bigger space, that annoys California gardeners; or the other alternative, pruning steadily, so that all one has after a few years is a collection of woody stems. Plants that are guaranteed to stay small are real finds for the owners of small places.

TREES, a quarterly journal devoted to the interests of TREES (Street and Ornamental) PARKS (Municipal and National) and FORESTS (State, National and Private) comes from Santa Monica, Calif. It carries in this issue five articles on highway and roadside planting, by highway and roadside officials who speak with authority. It is reassuring to motorists who have travelled upon the highways that go up and down and across our continent and have mourned over the bareness and treeless desolation of so many of them. One hardly knows which is the lesser evil—the endless miles of skinned-off banks and cuts, relieved only by the glitter of beer-cans and sign-board masterpieces, or the "ribbon slums" paraded in all their ugliness at most city entrances.

And speaking of Highway Improvement, can anyone who has travelled the San Joaquin Valley these last few years fail to notice the marvelous improvement in that straight streak of road after one leaves Grapevine? Those miles of thrifty looking trees, lining the miles of gleaming highway that stretches to the north, have made summer travel immeasurably more pleasant; and our thanks go out to whatever supervisor or highway engineer it was who wrought this miracle.

MARCH BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS has an article that suggests a newer, easier way for raising plants from seed; the seeds to be sown in trays of clean, washed sand, these resting in containers of nutrient solution. The author assures us that the mortality for seedlings is almost nil.

The "GYPsy Gardeners" spoken of in the same issue have plied their trade in San Diego, too, as some of the natives know to their sorrow. A smooth-talking super-salesman selling super-roses a few years ago took a good many dollars from gullible rose-lovers in our suburb, and gave second rate stock in return. With all the new hormone and vitamin discoveries for gardeners to get excited over, there will be a fertile field for itinerant salesmen on the shady side. **"Patronize our Advertisers!"**

HOUSE AND GARDEN for March places a strong emphasis on flower shows; Richardson Wright, chairman of International Flower Shows, previews plans for the big eastern shows, which take place in March. The following paragraph shows how this is managed: "By November the bulbs that will be shown in March are in their pots by the thousands—to catch the date you plant 4000 bulbs if you plan to exhibit 1000! Trees to be forced are chosen and their roots cropped. Those who are to make flower arrangements keep vigilance for new styles, new tendencies, new plant material. By the turn of the year the tempo quickens. In February the pace speeds up to a hectic and anxious grind that only ends when, on opening day, the manager blows a whistle, the exhibitors discreetly disappear and the judges solemnly march on the floor to decide who gets First, Second, Third, Commendation — or nothing."

At the Philadelphia show, as a relief from the usual luncheon and dinner table arrangements comes a class for dining tables between

meals. Another class is to be in black and white, "in the classical manner of ancient Greece or Rome." Query: How did the Romans arrange flowers on their dining divans? The advertisement for the New York show, in the paid columns of the magazine, was a beautiful and striking one — two columns wide, with three charming woodcuts.

A story about the "Dean of American Gardening," Mrs. Frances King, whose articles we have read with interest in "Horticulture" tells us that she has inspired gardeners and garden clubs for more than thirty years. She was a founder of the Garden Club of America, and has visited hundreds of garden clubs and thousands of gardeners. She has written a series of books to make us gardeners think; they wear well and "set all sorts of plans going in your head."

Like our own Miss Sessions, she recommends collecting catalogues; send everywhere for them, file and index them. Mr. Euan Cox, the former editor of one of England's advanced garden magazines has said that what he most missed in American gardens was the chance to see new plants. Every gardener here grows the same plants as every other; and Mrs. King, with her catalogues on Rare and New Things has gone beyond the average of us. Her newest book is "From a New Garden."

THE AMERICAN HOME for March tells of an entirely new type of flower show held last year in Dayton,Ohio. The president of The Little Gardens Club of that city tells of their "period" flower show which displayed all flowers in settings representative of different periods. The club found a new zest and interest in the novelty of the idea and the results in enthusiasm discounted the extra labor. A stimulating article in this issue is called "Your Town is what YOU make it!" Talk of "natural beauty", Heaven on Earth, and what you will, a town that permits huge signboards to cut off lovely views and deface the landscape; that allows junk yards unfenced and unashamed to adorn main boulevards; that sanctions new subdivisions with stingy little lots and no provision (or space, even) for tree planting, has a long way to go before it can class itself among the elect where beautiful cities are concerned.

FEBRUARY MEETING

A three-way discussion of garden making brought to the association appropriate data and suggestions, in view of the new spring season and the urge all gardeners experience at that time.

W. Allen Perry, director of parks spoke on layout or design of the garden. His material was unusually well prepared and given in a direct and forceful manner that should do much to impress the homemaker with the desirability of surveying the possibilities of his own bit of ground and meeting the requirements for his own mode of living. He favors cooking in the kitchen unless the layout of the garden allows of a suitable place for a barbecue and suggests walls where possible to substitute for hedges, thus conserving root space. The matter of enclosure as a prime requisite was stressed by going back to roots of the word garden and other derivatives—garth, engirt. He urged an easy accessibility and favored large windows from which the garden might be enjoyed from within. Scale and the use of texture of plants or size of leaves was brought out in forcing perspective.

Eric E. Eastman, farm advisor for the county, from his wide experience throughout Southern California touched lightly but very surely on the fundamentals of culture. Most people look upon soils as merely dirt or a place for plants to stand in. As a matter of fact they are living mediums with definite characteristics and wants that must be considered if the gardener is to be successful. Physically they may be divided into sand, adobe (clay) and loam and while the gardener may modify each to suit his desires, he must remember that water does not pass readily from light to heavy and vice versa. The chemistry of the soil is one of the most complicated studies imaginable and important from the standpoint of fertility. Finally the biological aspect has to do with bacteria and fungous organisms of beneficial nature and the air they require for growth and functioning.

Pruning—"If in doubt, don't do it"; achieve the natural form of the plant as nearly as possible, retaining branches that are to give strength to the plant in later life.

The "bugs" are divided into chewing kinds which die with internal poisons such as lead arsenate; sucking insects, controlled by sprays that clog the breathing pores of the body; preditors, insects imported to an area to feed on the harmful insects such as the ladybug. A vast amount of information was crowded into some twenty minutes.

Roland S. Hoyt, landscape architect, made a plea for more thought before planting, in the use of plant materials. We all love some plant because of its direct appeal to ourselves. Something within (intrinsic) reaches out and makes contact with us. We love the plant for itself

(Continued on page 9)

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Pot Garden

(Continued from Page 3)

containers, especially at first, but large tins with drainage holes will also serve.

When one has an unusually fine potted specimen it stands a better chance at a flower show, as it does not have to be cut or transplanted. The very nicest part of pot-gardening is that you can enjoy any choice plant in the house for a short while or indulge that impulse to present it to an invalid or friend on a moment's notice.

So, if you have some favorite trees and want successful plants beneath them, try gardening in pots. Remember before you start, that it should only be undertaken for the "long term" and with patience and untiring interest and devotion, but the results are most gratifying.

PATRONIZE Our Advertisers

February Meeting

(Continued from page 8)

and want it around, and we should have its company if there is a proper place in our garden. But there is another side that might be spoken of as extrinsic, a value that comes of its relation to surroundings. Use, in other words, has an important bearing on selection and such considerations as texture, soil, exposure, color and time of blooming must enter into our thoughts if our composition is to be enduring. A deciduous tree will let in the warm sunshine when it will be appreciated and offer shade in the heat of the year. Place plants in salt winds that are fitted to withstand the inevitable ordeal and spare yourself the mental suffering that comes of a tortured tree.

—R. S. H.

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